Appl. No. 09/965,004
Amdt. dated 07/07/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the phone interview of July 6, 2004. Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, independent Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Russell-Falla et al. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell-Falla et al. in view of University of Maryland's Web page. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell-Falla et al. in view of Gifford.

To better claim the invention, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims in the Application are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As is well known in the art, a home page is a Web page that a browser displays when the browser is instantiated. The browser will also display this page whenever the home page button on the browser's toolbar is asserted. As stated in the SPECIFICATION, when a first computer system is behind a company's firewall and the home page that is programmed on the first computer system's Web browser is hosted by a second computer system that is also behind the firewall, when the Web browser of the first computer system is instantiated, the Web browser will be able to access the home page. But, if the first computer system is not behind

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the firewall, the Web browser will not be able to access the home page and an error such as "page cannot be displayed" will be generated.

The "page cannot be displayed" error is not ordinarily generated right after the Web browser is instantiated. It usually occurs after a certain amount of time has elapsed (i.e., after the request sent by the Web browser for the home page has timed out). Most users usually wait to see whether a page will be displayed. This is time squandered that could be better used for the task at hand.

The present invention ensures that when a primary or default home page is not accessible, an alternate home page is accessed and displayed. This eliminates the idle time users usually spend waiting for a "page cannot be displayed" error to be generated and displayed.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

> 1. A method for a Web browser to display a home page upon activation comprising the steps of:
>   *determining whether a default home page is presently accessible;*
>   *accessing the default home page if the default home page is determined to be presently accessible or an alternate home page if the default home page is not determined to be presently accessible to download data representing the default home page or the alternate homepage, respectively;* and
>   displaying the respective downloaded data. (Emphasis added.)

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The Examiner rejected the independent claims in the Application under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by Russell-Falla et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Russell-Falla et al. purport to teach a method of blocking display of a Web page that contains a particular type of content. According to the teachings of Russell-Falla et al., when a user logs onto a computer system, a value which will have been previously assigned to the user by an administrator is obtained. This value is used to determine whether a Web page is to be displayed to the user.

Particularly, when a Web page is accessed, the content of the Web page, which is being downloaded to be displayed on the user's computer system, is intercepted by a proxy server. There, the content of the Web page is analyzed to determine whether pornographic materials, for example, are included therein. Based on the actual content of the Web page as determined by the analysis, the Web page is given a score. If the value assigned to the user is greater than or equal to the score, the content of the Web page is allowed to be displayed to the user. If, on the other hand, the value assigned to the user is less than the score given to the Web page, an alternate Web page is displayed. The alternate Web page may contain an explanation as to why the display of the Web page is blocked.

Thus, Russell-Falla et al. do not teach, show or so much as suggest determining whether a *default home page* is *accessible* and *displaying the default home page* if the default home page is accessible or *an alternate home page* if the default home page is not accessible. Rather,

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Russell-Falla et al. teach a method of determining whether to display the content of a Web page that has been **accessed**. In other words, a pre-requisite of the teachings of Russell-Falla et al. is Web page accessibility. If a Web page is not accessible, its content will not be downloaded, intercepted and analyzed by the proxy server. In such a case, the teachings of Russell-Falla et al. will be of no use.

The present invention, by contrast, determines whether a home page is accessible. If so, it will allow the home page to be accessed such that its content can be downloaded and displayed to the user. If it is determined that the home page is not accessible, it will have an alternate home page accessed such that its content is downloaded and displayed.

Since neither the Web page of the University of Maryland nor Gifford teaches the emboldened-italicized limitations in the above-reproduced claim, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. The other independent claims (i.e., Claims 6, 11 and 16) which all incorporate the emboldened-italicized limitations in the claim reproduced above as well as their dependent claims should also be allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are once more respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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